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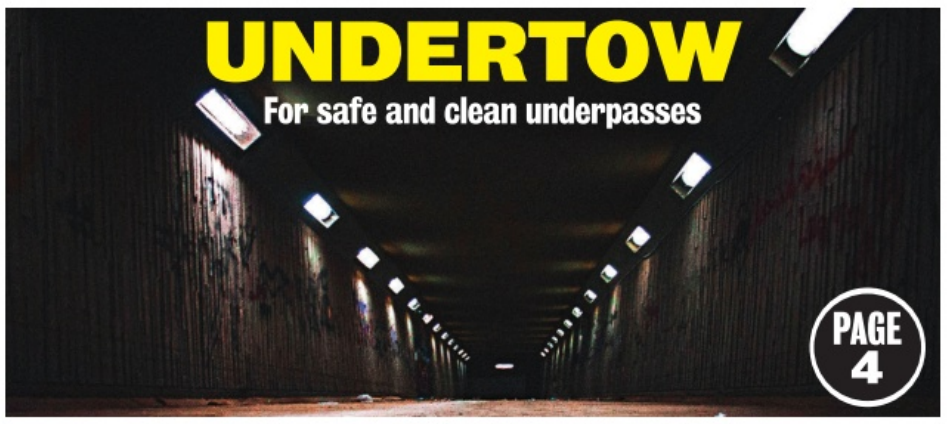
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 16 | Humidity 36% Clear sky Sensex 59,288 | Nifty 17,392 | Gold 55,348 | Silver 62,927 | Dollar 82.64 | Euro 87.42 | GBP 99.32



18 children, 22 women and 7 men amongst 55 persons rescued by CCB police from human trafficking racket in joint operation

TRAFFICKED

Persons found begging at traffic intersections in Bengaluru

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Fifty five persons found begging at traffic intersections in Bengaluru were rescued in a coordinated operation by Childline, Women and Child Development department and Central Crime Branch (CCB).

According to the police, up to 140 teams were formed to track those who fell into the trap of human trafficking. A total of three boys, three girls, 22 women, 18 children, and seven men were rescued by the CCB. According to the home department, 763 anti-human trafficking cases were registered across the state from 2017 to 2022.

CCB joint commissioner Sharanappa, said the CCB police are working with various institutions like the Women and Child Development department and BBMP to identify the pattern of trafficking cases.

"These rescue operations are a work of joint collaboration; many departments have to be a part of it like the BBMP along with police. This is the third drive we have undertaken in the last one year.

During the first two times, we rescued about 30-35 women and children and this time we have rescued 55 people. We are now trying to understand with the help of women and child development how these individuals got involved, whether they joined voluntarily or by force. Our main focus is to find out if there is any pattern of organised human trafficking and vested interests involved," Sharanappa told BM.

He added that at present the persons rescued are kept in rehabilitation centres; they are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

(PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES/LUCAS METZ/UNSPLASH)

> "People often limit it to sex work, begging, but then bonded labour is also human trafficking... Govt, judiciary should work towards providing quick justice...
>
> — Akkai Padmashali, transgender activist

On count of tree...

Institutes, if reconsidered for the census, will have to resubmit proposals based on new rates finalised by civic body

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is contemplating a major U-turn yet again on the much-awaited tree census of Bengaluru.

According to senior officials from the forest cell, the Palike is reconsidering roping in research institutes such as the Institute of wood Science and Technology (IWST) and University of Agricultural Sciences (GKVK) to conduct the survey. This is after the civic body had declined proposals from these institutes for the survey in the past.

"We are almost done with the pilot; some institutes have also come forward with proposals to conduct the census. We have also finalised the rate for the tender process. However, one more round of meetings is yet to happen. After that, we will decide whether the BBMP should take it up or to rope in research institutions such as GKVK, EMPRI or IWST. However, no decision has been taken so far," said Sarina Sikkaligar, deputy conservator of forests (DCF), BBMP.

However, the institutes, if reconsidered, will have to resubmit proposals based on new rates finalised by the civic body.

"If we decide to go ahead with any of the research institutes, they will have to submit an updated proposal for the project. The census has to be conducted scientifically; we think it will be better if we bring in scientists and people with the right backgrounds," added Sikkaligar.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Classic tunes

Classical violinist Èlia Bastida, who also sings and plays tenor saxophone, is all set to perform live at Windmills. She is influenced by the lyrics and swing of Stéphane Grappelli but approaches his music from her musical personality and takes it to her territory. Her violin creates a new sound in the world of this beautiful instrument. Along with Josep Traver on Guitar, Arnau Julià on Drums, and Joan Chamorro on Double Bass, she shapes her path based on the music of jazz musicians such as Zoot Sims, Sonny Stitt, and Scott Hamilton.
Where: Windmills;
When: March 3 and 4; Ticket: bookmyshow.com

02 Morning melodies

Catch Morning Raag with Amrutha Venkatesh, a concert that will comprise a vocal solo by Amrutha Venkatesh who will present an eclectic mix of ragas, some of them morning ragas. A wholesome variety awaits those who attend the concert. It will be an interesting selection of compositions of various composers, some in tune with daybreak, some peppy and toe-tapping, some contemplative and some that the audience will love to hear over and over again. **Where: Lumbini, Jagriti Theatre**
When: March 5, 7:30 am; Tickets: https://in.bookmyshow.com

03 Make soap

Participate in a soap-making workshop at Bangalore Creative Circus. This will be a riveting workshop on handmade soap bars. Learn the basics of crafting all natural cold-processed soap bars and unlearn the dubious information of the beauty industry. Students, art lovers, sustainability practitioners, beauty enthusiasts, beginners, retires, soap lovers, this workshop is for everyone.
Where: Bangalore Creative Circus, Yeswanthpur Industrial Suburb
When: March 5, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Tickets: https://linktr.ee/blrcreativecircus

Protest brews over Vishnu dada's samadhi

Hundred members of Nadapremi Dr Vishnu Academy want the Karnataka government to retain place where late film icon's remains were cremated

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A hundred members of Nadapremi Dr Vishnu Academy staged a protest on Monday demanding the state government retain Dr Vishnuvardhan's samadhi on Uttarahalli Main Road. The protest took place in front of in front of Karnataka Film Chambers of Commerce.

Protestors said they wanted the state government to honour the place where the late actor's final remains were cremated at Abhiman Studio and build a memorial there, instead of shiftng the samadhi to another spot.

They submitted a memorandum, addressed to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, to Karnataka Film Chambers of Commerce president Ba Ma Harish in support of their demand.

"Dr Vishnuvardhan, who has been given the titles of Sahasasimha and Vishnu Dada, was a versatile actor. He acted in hundreds of Kannada movies. The state government should protect the place where Dr Vishnuvardhan's mortal remains were cremated and declare Dr Vishnuvardhan's samadhi as a monument," said Nadapremi Dr Vishnu Academy honorary president Kranthi Raju.

He said that crores of Dr Vishnuvadhan's fans would like to visit Dr Vishnuvardhan's samadhi to pay their respects.

Protestors chant slogans in front of the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce on Monday

The members of Nadapremi Dr Vishnu Academy chanted slogans in support of their demands.

S Ravi, general secretary of Nadapremi Dr Vishnu Academy has appealed to the state government to develop Dr Vishnuvardhan's samadhi as a monument.

"I have grown up watching Dr Vishnuvardhan's movies. Many people want the state government to retain and protect Dr Vishnuvardhan's samadhi. We have no objection to the state government establishing a memorial for Dr Vishnuvardhan," Ravi said.

> **"The state government should reserve the land for Dr Vishnuvardhan's samadhi by giving compensation to late Balakrishna's children** – Palanethra V, President, Karnataka Vichara Vedike

Amid rumours that the samadhi may be shifted from the studio elsewhere, Karnataka Vichara Vedike president Palanethra V suggested the state government should initiate talks with the children of late Balakrishna on the issue of Dr Vishnuvardhan's samadhi.

"I want the state government to reserve the land for Dr Vishnuvardhan's samadhi by giving compensation to late Balakrishna's children," said Palanethra.

Dr Vishnuvardhan was cremated at the land belonging to Abhiman Studios on December 30, 2009.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had inaugurated Dr Vishnuvardhan's memorial at Halalu village on Mysore-HD Kote Road on January 29.

Noise in the exam hall? Ban the pen

Several Bengaluru schools ban clicking pens citing 'sound disturbance'

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To ensure exam halls have pin-drop silence, city schools have now banned students from using clicking pens.

Schools have also sent a circular to parents asking them to ensure children do not carry these pens to the exam. A principal of a school said this step was done after several complaints came from parents saying that the sound of these pens was disturbing the students.

"Firstly, the students have to click these pens to write. However, as the students don't write the exam continuously, they keep clicking in and out and this sound can be annoying to many. The other reason we have found out is that many students have got addicted to clicking the pens if they don't know the answer. The invigilators have been warning students but they do not listen."

However, some students are not happy with the decision as they said they were used to writing with clicking pens. Shwetha R, a tenth standard student said, "Students need to be comfortable in practicing at home and using the same pen at exam. Instead of using the ballpoint pen with a cap where we need to keep removing the cap while writing, clicking pens are quite easier as a single click can ensure that we don't scribble or scratch the paper if the nib is out.

"The diktat has been issued a few days before the exam which would mean that we would not be able to write with our favourite pen," she said.

For parents, it was a question of rules that have evolved over the years.

A homemaker, Sujata R said that when she was a school student, ink pens were encouraged despite the pen's many disadvantages: ink splashing across the page to spending time filling it before the exam.

"Now, ink pens have almost become obsolete," she reminisced.

No change in NEET date, students disappointed

Supreme Court dismisses petitions seeking postponement; exam to be held on March 5

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

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The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed all petitions seeking postponement of the National Entrance cum Eligibility Test, snuffing out hopes of students who had clamoured for the exam's postponement.

The examination will be held on the scheduled date of Sunday, March 5. With less than a week left for the preparations, the students are left disappointed with the apex court's order.

"There is absolutely no time left to prepare for the examination. We had a little hope for this hearing but our time was wasted. Now there are just five days left for the preparation. Already there has been so much stress and pressure over the medical students due to the delay and uncertainties," a medical student told Bangalore Mirror.

"The centre says that they are trying to bring back the academic year to the pre-covid schedule but do they need to do that at the stake of students? The medical syllabus is huge and very complicated and so much time has gone into the court hearings and glitches with the eligibility deadlines. That was also not the students' fault," she added.

The aspirants have been seeking a postponement of the exam for at least a month citing various reasons such as a delayed academic year, lack of sufficient preparation time, and several changes in the counseling deadline by the ministry of health and family welfare.

Moreover, as BM had reported earlier, the students also argued that if NEET PG is being held on March 5, counseling can begin only after August 11, which is the internship cut-off date, and hence there would be too much gap between the two.

> **"We have just five days to prepare for the exam now and it is very stressful considering the huge syllabus**
>
> –a student

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati, who was appearing for the National Board of Examinations which conducts the examination said during the hearing that no date is available in the near future with their technology partner for the exam to be postponed.

However, the National Board of Examinations (NBE) had added in the court that it plans to commence counseling by July 15 and the students who are yet to complete the internship will be dealt with case by case, the reports have revealed.

Admit cards released online

Meanwhile, the National Board of Examination in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) also released the admit cards for the postgraduate medical entrance examination on Monday, February 27.

As the admit cards were released before the Supreme Court hearing on Monday, many students boycotted the same and refused to download their admit cards. Some students even took their disappointment to social media. However, after the plea of the students was dismissed by the apex court, they are left with no other choice.

A space war in Kasavanahalli

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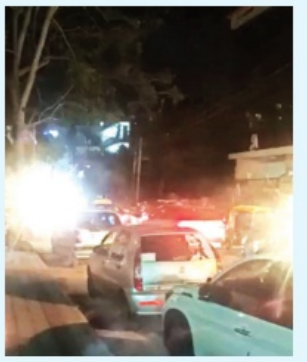
Residents of Kasavanahalli are unhappy over the increasing number of cars being parked illegally in the neighbourhood. They say that drivers do not bother to follow the rules and there is no action being taken by authorities.

The residents say that walking and driving has become difficult due to the many cars parked haphazardly. Anup Anand, a resident, said, "The people have parked their cars everywhere without following proper rules. This unmannerly parking is causing a congestion for long hours."



Kasavanahalli has many traffic jams, say residents

Pedestrians also have to jostle for space. Aditya Nair, a pedestrian, grumbled, "There are cars parked along the entire footpath. There is no space for the pedestrians to walk. We have no option but to use the main road. This could be quite dangerous."

Maneuvering the roads is an equally tricky task for commuters. Anand Prakash, who regularly drives on this route, said that he has to constantly be aware of the pedestrians walking past.

The residents also said many school buses parked there add to the congestion. Upasana Padhiary, another resident of the neighbourhood, said, "Because of this, the space is less."

A BBMP official said they would look into the issue.

Contactless fines: A superhit idea

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The Bengaluru Traffic Police have booked more than eight lakh cases of traffic violations through contactless enforcement in January 2023.

The number was cases was 8,15,266 while the total number of cases booked by the traffic police in the first month of this year was 8,45,530.

Contactless enforcement contributed to a total of 96.42 per cent of the total cases that were registered.

In recent years, there has been a rapid increase in cases booked though AI cameras and other technological enforcement devices; in 2022, the traffic police booked an astonishing 96 lakh cases through contactless enforcement.

As reported by BM earlier, there has been an increase of 123 per cent of traffic violation cases booked in Bengaluru through contactless enforcement in the last four years.

Traffic violations are booked with the help of AI and other technologies

Residents in the city feel that this has created more transparency.

"Now we can get the pictures of the violation and we have all the details of when and where it happened. There is no chance of corruption and harassment. Earlier, police used to stop people at junctions and charge extra money from them for a violation. When I once violated a traffic rule, the policeman took money from me and didn't even give me a receipt. But through technology, there are fewer chances of giving a bribe," said Vinay, a resident of Ejipura.

According to the police, now the main focus of the department is to book maximum cases using technology and to use the manpower in enforcement of rules.

"The new AI cameras have number recognition technology and there are 80 red light violation detection cameras positioned at 50 different intersections to detect traffic violations by the commuters in a contactless manner and they automatically create fines for the violators, which people can check online. We are trying to adopt a technology-based system to penalise violators," said the police.

Residents in the city also added that many of them are getting traffic violation notices even if they have not violated any law. "Recently I checked violations for my two-wheeler and came to know that someone else is using my number plate. The police should take strict action," said Yash, a resident of the city.

Dirty underbelly: Dare you to take this path

To whomsoever it may concern: Underpass at Majestic is a nightmare for people trying to access the metro; it is dark, unhygienic and dangerous

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Spit and dirt adorn the walls of the underpass at Majestic that leads to the Metro station. As if that were not unclean enough, at some areas, sewage lines are kept open with stones around them

The commuters are upset over the terrible condition of the underpass in Majestic. They say that the premises are unhygienic despite being a safe passage for people to access the metro. Reportedly, the entire place is extremely dirty. "The accessibility of the place is not proper. The steps in the underpass are not fit to be used by disabled people, children, aged people and pregnant women. Apart from that, there is no cleanliness in the place. It is important to clean the place every day," said Raghavendra B Pachhapur, a commuter.

However, the only means of cleaning is sweeping, which is not enough. It is highly unhygienic. The people also spit around and that is never cleaned later, he added.

"There is also a problem with sewage entering the premises. They have kept some sewage lines open with stones around them and during the rainy season the water comes inside," he explained.

Other commuters added that people will be compelled to walk on roads for safer commutes if the underpass remains dirty.

"The place is a nightmare, to begin with. It is extremely dirty. The walls look like they have not been cleaned for years. It is an important passage connecting to the metro. If the place is not made accessible to people then they will be forced to use the main road which is quite dangerous as vehicles move at high speed," said Harish K, another commuter. The commuters also complained about the lighting in the underpass. They expressed that the area should have better lighting.

Abhijith Padhiary, another commuter, told Bangalore Mirror that due to no proper lights in the area, the situation worsens during the evening. "So many people use this passage during the evening hours and without light it is quite risky. People can trip and fall, and a serious accident can take place if the authorities are not taking any steps to make the area fine," he said.

> **"So many people use this passage during the evening hours and without light it is quite risky. People can trip and fall here**
>
> – Abhijith Padhiary, a commuter

"I was using this underpass with my aged mother and it was the worst experience I ever had. The steps were in a terrible condition and it got very difficult for my mother to use them. It was in the evening and there was too much crowd and not enough light. My mother got pushed around a lot. There was also too much dirty water inside," a commuter anonymously informed.

Meanwhile, a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) official said that they would try to fix the problems as soon as possible.

Green act: Lake brought back to life

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Maragondanahalli Lake after restoration. The lake was cleaned by eco-friendly method

All these years Maragondanahalli Lake was known for being full of silt, weeds and sewage. One had to protect nostrils with a handkerchief from bad odour emanating from stagnated sewage water. However, the lake has become a favourite destination for the residents of nearby apartment complexes and surrounding areas after its rejuvenation.

Recently, the rejuvenation of the lake was undertaken by JSW Group. The restoration project was conceived by Anand Malligavad of Malligavad Foundation in 2021. The rejuvenation and restoration of the lake was done in 75 working days without using steel or concrete.

"The JSW Foundation teams have provided immense support in restoring the ecological balance of Maragondanahalli Lake through this restoration effort. We believe that the local residents and people of Bengaluru will be able to enjoy the full benefits of this beautiful lake," said Anand Malligavad of Malligavad Foundation.

The foundation used 800-year-old technology for the restoration of the lake. The lake has been brought back to life in an eco-friendly manner while ensuring a low carbon footprint through the use of locally available natural materials.

"I have not used many workers for the rejuvenation work. There will be no cost for the maintenance of the lake. There are no electric light poles installed to avoid disturbing birds. I am of the opinion that people should have access to the lake between 6 am and 6 pm. The lake should be accessible for birds at night without any disturbance," he explained. JSW Foundation executed the restoration of the lake by constructing floating wetlands to treat the sewage water entering the lake's location. More than 12,000 canna and vetiver plants were used to construct 10 floating wetlands all over the lake. The roots of these plants act as natural purifiers by absorbing toxins and pollutants to keep the water naturally treated and devoid of odour and colour.

The local residents collaborated on the restoration project by planting more than 4,500 saplings all around the lake's location.

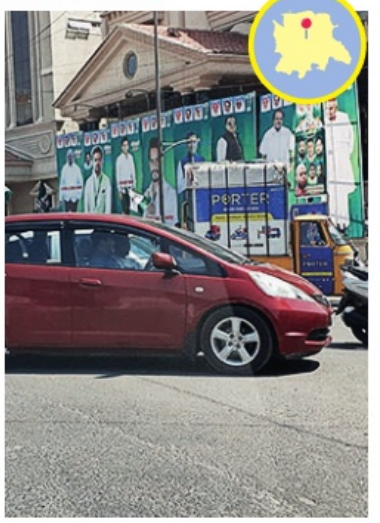
"The restoration of Maragondanahalli Lake was carried out through an ecological approach to avoid the use of modern building materials like cement and concrete. Moreover, the soil that was dredged from the lake has been used to raise the boundary wall and protect it from getting contaminated in the future," said Ashwini Saxena, chief executive, JSW Foundation.

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Unruly flex

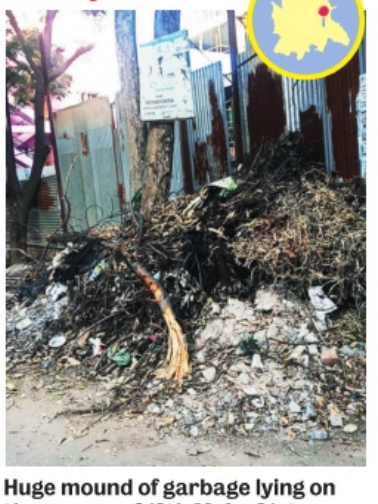
Millers Road



There's so many flex banners on Millers Road. Politicians are the bane of humanity. Shame on them.

Pile of rubbish

HSR Layout



Huge mound of garbage lying on the corner of 12th Main, 21st Cross, 7th Sector, HSR Layout for the past one year. BBMP has not taken action despite complaints.

It's the pits

Kadugodi

On the side of Trifecta Esplanade Apartment, Belathur Main Road in Kadugodi, the drain under the footpath has been left uncovered for a long time.

Don't fall for that! Plastic by any other name...

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board released a public notice on February 21 urging people not to use single-use plastic in the name of compostable, biodegradable, and oxy-biodegradable plastics.

"As per the rule 4(h) of the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) rules, manufacturers and sellers of biodegradable and compostable plastic commodities are to be certified by CPCB. It is observed that banner SUP products claiming to be biodegradable/oxy-biodegradable are being manufactured, sold, and used in the market. CPCB has not issued any certificate for Biodegradable products as per Rule 4(h) of the Plastic waste Management Rules, 2022 (as amended) to date. No exemption has been given to Oxo Biodegradable plastics under Plastic Waste Management Rules,2022," the notice said.

"Further, the Government of Karnataka has issued notification regarding manufacture, supply, store, transport, sale and/or distribute plastic carry bags made of polymer-based, bio-degradable and compostable and all thickness carry bags are banned within Karnataka," the notice added.

Environment activists in the city recently urged the state pollution control board for another training for the on-ground implementation staff including pourakarmikas, in order to curb the circulation of these single-use plastic products. "If they do allow biodegradable, oxy-biodegradable or compostable, or whatever name it might come with, who will keep a check if the products are actually biodegradable or not? Everyone will keep printing on their covers that the products are biodegradable when authentically it would not be true. No one in the government has the bandwidth to check each and every product," said Shanthi Tummala, an environmentalist at HSR Citizen Forum.

Pollution Board issues notice urging people not to use single-use plastic even if it is sold as compostable or biodegradable

Tummala said that many pourakarmikas, transport workers cannot read on the covers if the plastic is biodegradable, compostable, or not.

This will further hamper the segregation and waste treatment process. "I put a biodegradable cover in my composter and after six months it was still intact. If it takes so long to break down, imagine the quantity that we generate today and that goes to the plants... People should not be lining their bins with plastics, of any kind," she added.

The state pollution control board has also warned those involved in manufacture, supply, store, transport, sale of these products of penal action as per the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986.

Forget old promises, here is a new one: More Suvidha Cabins

Whether or not it meets existing deadline, BBMP makes sure to take up more on its plate: This time it is 52 more cabins at Rs 16.41 crore

| Melvin Mathew
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To improve the existing infrastructure of Suvidha Cabins for pourakarmikas, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is all set to increase the number of cabins. While earlier, the cabins were made of metal containers, the plan is to now move to more permanent structures.

BBMP is planning to establish 52 Suvidha cabins making it a total of 227 Suvidha Cabins across eight zones in the city. A tender was floated on Sunday for providing the cabins at mustering and de-mustering points of pourakarmikas for a tender amount of Rs 16.41 crore. The construction is expected to be completed within nine months,

A senior BBMP SWM official told BM, "We will be constructing 52 buildings as per this contract. Earlier, we had constructed 175 cabins made with metal containers. Now we have decided to construct permanent buildings for pourakarmikas. These structures will come up in vacant BBMP spaces across Bengaluru in areas with sufficient space."

Each building is expected to come up on 20X30 land. BBMP will only construct the ground floor with separate facilities for men and women; In areas where there is sufficient space, buildings will have a ground floor and first floor with each floor accommodating separate facilities for men and women.

All the facilities provided in the metal containers will be replicated. One major disadvantage of the metal containers was that the facilities were cramped up and the upgrade will help in this regard. BBMP won't be building these structures on footpaths and near the roadside but has identified locations that fit the land requirements.

Previously BBMP had constructed Suvidha Cabins with two toilets for men and women, a changing room, a feeding room, a first aid kit, a drinking water facility, a wooden rack and phone charging stations. In 2021, BBMP received a government proposal to construct 221 cabins for Rs 18.31 crore and Palike has not yet been able to complete that target even after 14 months of announcing a six-month deadline. After the deployment of these cabins, the initial target will be exceeded by a minimal margin for the estimated 18,000 pourakarmikaas. The project has repeatedly failed to take off since its inception in 2019. I

In 2022, the first cabin came up in the Malleswaram on a trial basis and it was announced that work would be finished within six months starting January 2022. Without such facilities, pourakarmikas who ensure hygiene of the city are forced to eat on the roadside and have to look for public toilets.

BangaloreMirror

Ready - but not quite

Washrooms for women pourakarmikas are located inside cabins which are locked at certain times, limiting access for them

BM had reported on August 13, 2022, that several of the washrooms still remained inaccessible to pourakarmikas

Disha Ravi case: 'Can investigating agency collect private info?'

#New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Monday directed the Centre to file a fresh status report on the ongoing investigation against climate activist Disha Ravi in connection with the alleged toolkit case against her over the 2021 farmers' protests.

According to the police, the "toolkit" on the farmers' protest that Ravi with two others allegedly created was developed with an intention to "tarnish India's image".

A single-judge bench of Justice Prathiba M Singh was dealing with Ravi's plea, who sought the court's direction to restrain police from providing any investigation material to the media. Justice Singh said: "Let the Union of India file an affidavit as to the status of investigation and the current position."

While she listed the matter for the next hearing on September 4, she directed that the affidavit be filed at least two weeks before it.

Appearing for Ravi, senior advocate Akhil Sibal said that a question which needs to be considered here is whether the investigating agency has the power and entitlement to identify and collect private data or investigation from a person who is under investigation.

"During the course of investigation, when the charge sheet is yet to be filed, you've collected private data and the media starts reporting," Sibal contended.

He added that no chargesheet has been filed in the case yet and that his client is out on bail. "This cannot go on like this. It is an important matter, you cannot come without instructions," Justice Singh expressed her displeasure over the Police counsel appearing without proper instructions.

A court on February 23, 2021, granted bail to Ravi days after she was arrested from Bengaluru for allegedly editing a social media toolkit about the farmer protest against three farm laws. The court had granted bail saying there was "scanty" and "sketchy" evidence to back charges of sedition against Ravi. It asserted that citizens could not be jailed simply because they disagreed with government policies

Additional sessions judge Dharmender Rana had released the then 22-year-old activist on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh and two sureties of the same amount.

In her petition, Ravi claimed that she was viscerally attacked by Delhi Police and several media houses on the basis of leaked investigative matter and prejudicial press briefings.

-IANS

Smooth drive from B'luru to central India

Expressway to provide access to pilgrim centres like Shirdi

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Though Bengaluru has good connectivity to Golden Quadrilateral and North South corridor projects, it lacks proper connectivity to central India. Now, the Centre is planning to connect expressways from Bengaluru to cities in central India like Aurangabad, Shirdi, Jalna and so on.

Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari recently said that the proposed Greenfield expressway from Bengaluru to Pune will connect the city to Mumbai Expressway, and from Mumbai Expressway to Delhi (via Mumbai-Delhi expressway).

On the other hand, there was a proposal to construct an expressway between Pune to Aurangabad and Jalna. This would provide better access from Bengaluru to pilgrim centres like Shirdi, and other central Indian towns and cities. This proposed expressway will be taken up under the Bharatmala Phase-two and this will be a six-lane access-controlled Greenfield highway of 700 km.

Out of this, 500 km will pass through Karnataka and 200 km through Maharashtra. The total cost of the project is pegged at Rs 45,000 crore. The Mumbai – Pune Expressway and Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway would be connected because of this new Greenfield highway.

The areas of northern Karnataka will be benefited by the proposed Solapur – Kurnool – Chennai economic corridor. This highway passes via six states including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

The Surat-Chennai project is a six-lane access-controlled expressway with a total length of 1,270 km and project cost of Rs 47,000 crores. The road passes through districts of Kalaburgi, Yadgir and Raichur in north Karnataka. The work in Karnataka has been divided in four packages with a total length of 223 km and cost of Rs 7,446 crore.

Another highway that passes via Karnataka is the Mumbai-Kanyakumari Highway. This coastal highway passing through states of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu will be of 1,620 km in length. Out of this, 380 km will be in Karnataka. Currently, the work in two packages of length 261 km is completed and the balance of two packages Mangaluru bypass and Kumta bypass are in DPR stage.

File photo: Way to Bengaluru airport road. Bengaluru will be connected to Vijayawada via Kadapa by 2026

B'luru- Vijayawada Expressway expected in 2026

Meanwhile, the 342 km-long expressway from Bengaluru to Vijayawada via Kadapa will be built at a capital cost of Rs 13,600 crore. This project will be a combination of both Greenfield and upgradation of existing roads. This project aims to reduce the distance between the two cities by about 75 km and will reduce the travel time by about five hours. "The corridor enhances connectivity to existing and upcoming economic and industrial nodes such as Guntur, Kadapa, Koparthy. The bids for 275 km of the corridor have been invited and the contracts for the entire corridor are targeted to be awarded in the financial year 2023-24, and likely to be opened to the public by the financial year 2025-26," said an official.

This project will help Bengaluru to get a direct connectivity to Vijayawada, which is on the Chennai-Kolkata corridor. Currently, the vehicles travelling from Bengaluru towards Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar and Kolkata have to travel via either Chittoor-Tirupati or Chennai section, which is a detour. The existing highway via Kadapa is a two-lane highway and takes a lot of time to travel.

B'luru-Mysuru toll collection deferred

After receiving flak from motorists for not completing the service roads, the Bengaluru-Mysuru toll collection has been deferred for sometime.

On Monday, Mysuru MP Pratap Simha announced the deferment of toll collection. It may be noted that the toll collection for the 55.6 km stretch of Bengaluru-Mysuru road (till Nidaghatta) was to begin now. However, many road users wondered why everyone was being forced to take the expressway as the service roads were far from complete. Earlier, the NHAI had claimed that the service roads were toll free and those who didn't wish to travel on the toll road could take the service road. As the service roads are still incomplete, the toll collection has been deferred for now.

TO HELL AND BACK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

being questioned by the Women and Child Development department and later they will be questioned by the police.

Meanwhile, BT Venkatesh, former state public prosecutor, said instead of handing the children over to centres, the government should put them into residential schools.

"One of the major reasons behind trafficking is poverty. These individuals come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; even after being rescued, chances are they might end up in the same place. One of the things that the government and authorities can do is, put the rescued children in residential schools and help them in education. If they are able to get good education and care, chances are they won't get into begging or trafficking. Rescued children are put in shelter homes by the government, which are basically like a prison," he said.

According to the latest NCRB data, there were 6 women victims of human trafficking in Bengaluru in 2021. Transgender activist Akkai Padmashali said the government and judiciary should work towards providing quick justice and there should be stricter implementation of law.

"Trafficking happens in various forms. People often limit it to sex work and begging, but then bonded labour is also human trafficking. When it comes to human trafficking and women being trafficked, it is the negligence of the government, ministry of home affairs and some policemen. It is such a serious concern, yet it is something where the government fails to take serious action against the pimps and mediators. There is also a need for quick justice, when the police have rescued the people and taken action, it is also the responsibility of the judiciary to provide efficient and quick justice," Padmashali told BM.

'Get on with tree census, please'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Interestingly, there have been many attempts by the BBMP to conduct the survey in the past. After the High Court directed the Palike to carry out the tree census in August 2019 as per the provisions of the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976, the civic agency had first reached out to IWST and then to GKVK to conduct the survey.

However, after months of discussions, the contracts did not take off with any of the institutes. The BBMP then decided to carry out the survey with inputs from the tree authority and manpower support from the Karnataka Forest Department. However, the plan too did not materialise.

Experts said while the idea to rope in research institutes is welcome, a delay in conducting the census is unacceptable.

"This shows the lethargic and irresponsible attitude of the civic body. A contempt case must be filed against the BBMP forest cell for delaying the census. We should have conducted the census long ago to get an idea of how much green cover we have left and how much of it is being lost regularly. BBMP should have gone ahead with GKVK's proposal last year itself. A fresh proposal and MoU will delay the process further," said environmentalist Dr AN Yellappa Reddy.

"Every time we reached out to the BBMP to sign an MoU, officials said the proposal is with the commissioner for approval. The first proposal was submitted by the varsity in March 2022, and we also reworked the proposal multiple times. But we never heard back from BBMP. It is a good idea that the Palike is considering bringing in, the delay is due to apathy of BBMP officials," said Dr C Chandaraiah, retired professor and botanist of the department of forestry and environmental science, GKVK.

Currently, BBMP is conducting a pilot of the census in the Mahadevapura area and resolving technical issues cropping up in the software application that has been developed for the census.

Massive road show in poll-bound Karnataka

Election time nears and Prime Minister Modi is in town: Infrastructure projects, development initiatives launched, fiery speeches made in front of cheering crowds

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held a massive road show in poll-bound Karnataka's Belagavi, with a large number of enthusiastic crowds turning up to have a glimpse of the country's top leader.

Standing on the 'running board' of his moving car, Modi waved at the crowd, which had gathered on either side of the road and on nearby buildings, many of whom were seen chanting 'Modi, Modi' slogans and shouting loud cheers.

The PM was in the city to lay the foundation stone and dedicate multiple development initiatives, and also to release the 13th instalment of PM-KISAN worth more than Rs 16,800 crore.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme launched by the Centre in 2019, all landholding farmer families in the country are provided income support of Rs 6,000 in three instalments of Rs 2,000 each, every four months.

About 10.5-km-long road show to Malini City (venue of the stage event) was painted with saffron hues, as BJP flags, posters and banners dotted the route.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves at supporters during a roadshow, in Belagavi, on Monday

PU exams postponed for PM visit

The first pre-university exams were postponed in the district on Monday in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Belagavi where he held a 10 km long road show. The PU Board had earlier announced holding history, physics and basic mathematics examinations on Monday.

However, in view of Modi's visit, the deputy director of the PU Education Department issued a circular on February 24 saying that the exams have been postponed and it will now be held on March six.

The Congress national general secretary in charge of Karnataka, Randeep Singh Surjewala questioned the move to postpone the exams.

Shivamogga Airport inaugurated

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated the Shivamogga airport and also stressed that the double-engine government of BJP in the state and at the Centre are ensuring speedy development.

An aerial view of the Shivamogga Airport

Addressing the huge gathering, Modi stated that the BJP government has put the state of Karnataka in the mode of development. "Karnataka is on the chariot of development. The double-engine government has increased the speed of development," he said.

"The BJP government is putting in all efforts to take development to villages, tier-2 and tier-3 cities. The party also changed the narrative of development confined only to major cities and surrounding areas," the Prime Minister stated.

At many places, people showered flower petals as his cavalcade passed through the stretch slowly.

Over 10,000 women clad in saree and saffron peta (traditional headgear) accorded a 'purnakumbha' (ceremonial) welcome to Modi.

There were a number of stage shows, some also equipped with LEDs, put up along the route, depicting the culture and traditions of various regions of the country and historic personalities, as also programmes of the BJP government.

About 10.5-km-long road show to Malini City (venue of the stage event) was painted with saffron hues, as BJP flags, posters and banners dotted the route

Karnataka, a BJP governed state, goes to Assembly polls by May.

After Bengaluru Urban with 27 Assembly segments (28 including Anekal), Belagavi, bordering Maharashtra, is the second biggest district in the State with 18 seats. In 2018, BJP won 13 seats in Belagavi, and emerged as the single largest party with 105 seats in the State.

– Agencies

IN BRIEF

Man kills self

A man who used to get drunk and quarrelled with his wife every day is said to have died by suicide.

The deceased has been identified as Madeva, 40 from Channapatnam. The incident took place on Sunday night and the locals informed the police. The man is said to have been addicted to the drink. After getting drunk, he allegedly fought with his wife every day. His wife was troubled by his behaviour and had gone to the police station many times. The police had warned him not to quarrel with his wife.

Madeva, who had already been married three times, quarrelled with his wife on Sunday morning and demanded Rs 150. After getting drunk, he came back and started shouting at her again. Madeva's wife informed the police about this matter. Later, the police found the man hanging from a tree. Annapurneshwari Nagar police have registered a case and are continuing the investigation.

No job: Man arrested for cheating people

The North-East Division police have arrested a man who used to deceive people by taking money from them, after promising to get them employment abroad. The arrested accused is a Nigerian, Nokocha. He had cheated a woman from Doddagubbi by taking Rs 37 lakh her promising to give her a job in the UK. The accused was arrested on the woman's complaint. The police have seized a laptop, six mobiles, a sim card and a passport from the accused.

This gang likes to go to schools, colleges

The Jnanabharati police nabbed members of an interstate gang that target only schools and colleges for stealing, on Monday. The police found items worth Rs 5 lakh from the accused. The accused have been identified as Veeramalai, Babu, and Anna Dorai, who hail from Tamil Nadu. They are accused of breaking into schools and colleges during the admissions season in order to steal valuables. The accused have been active in the city since 2001.

Green flag to modified variant of HAL's aircraft

The modified variant of HAL aircraft 'Hindustan 228-201 LW' has been approved by the civil aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

This modification in the aircraft would make it fall in the sub-5,700 kg aircraft category. This variant of HAL aircraft has a maximum take-off weight of 5,695 kg with 19-passenger capability.

"This variant provides several operational benefits for operators such as reduced pilot qualification requirement enabling pilots with Commercial Pilot License to fly the aircraft, enhanced availability of pilot pool for the aircraft and reduced operational cost," the HAL said in a release on Monday.

Variant of 'Hindustan 228-201 LW' has been okayed

In addition, the release said the new variant would reduce training requirements for flying and ground crew, including aircraft maintenance engineers. Besides, HAL also has approval for 6,200-kg AUW aircraft with a seating capacity of 19 passengers. – ANI

German Chancellor interacts with biz minds

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has interacted with "inspiring talents" of SAP India, German ambassador to India Philipp Ackermann stated in a tweet. Scholz witnessed "India's modern face" at Bengaluru and met with young Indians on their way to Germany.

Philipp Ackermann tweeted, "Bangalore showed India's modern face to @Bundeskanzler Olaf Scholz & us! We changed batteries for scooters @Sun_Mobility & met inspiring talents @SAPIndia. Chancellor also talked to young Indians on their way to Germany & visited Royal Challengers - end of a successful visit!" Olaf Scholz was on an official visit to India from February 25-26. He was accompanied by senior officials and a high-powered business delegation.

Meanwhile, IPL Cricket team Royal Challengers Banglore on Sunday tweeted, "We had the extreme honour and privilege of hosting the Hon'ble Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany at Namma Chinnaswamy Stadium. His Excellency called on RCB's WPL camp today." On Saturday, the German Chancellor called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan. President Murmu noted that Germany is India's largest trade partner in Europe and also among the top investors in India. – ANI

9 out of 10 Adani firms close in the red

Stocks of nine out of ten listed firms of the Adani Group closed in the red on Monday, with the flagship Adani Enterprises tumbling over 9 per cent as investors continued to desert the counters.

The conglomerate, whose business interests span from sea-ports to airports, edible oil and commodities, energy, and cement to data centres, has taken a drubbing on the bourses following a report by US short-seller Hindenburg Research labelling charges of stock manipulation and accounting fraud.

The Adani group has vehemently dismissed the charges as lies, saying it complies with all laws and disclosure requirements. All the ten listed firms have together lost Rs 12.37 lakh crore (Rs 12,37,891.56 crore) in market valuation since the US short-seller came out with its report on January 24. The group's combined market capitalisation is now at Rs 6.81 lakh crore, down from Rs 19.19 lakh crore on January 24.

As the decline in group firms further deepened on Monday, Adani Enterprises shares plunged 9.17 per cent to settle at Rs 1,194.20 on the BSE. In intra-day trade, the stock tanked 11.99 per cent to Rs 1,157.

Adani Total Gas went lower by 5 per cent and Adani Wilmar dropped 5 per cent. Shares of Adani Transmission fell 4.99 per cent, Adani Green Energy declined by 4.99 per cent, NDTV by 4.98 per cent, Adani Power by 4.97 per cent, Ambuja Cements by 4.50 per cent and ACC by 1.95 per cent. Most of the firms also hit their lower circuit limits during the day. Only Adani Ports managed to end the trade with gains. **-PTI**

'India can't be prisoner of its past'

SC slams petitioner for plea to make panel to restore 'original' names of historical places

#NEW DELHI

Asserting that India cannot be a "prisoner of its past", the Supreme Court Monday dismissed a plea to constitute a commission for restoring "original" names of historical places "renamed by barbaric foreign invaders" and came down heavily on the petitioner for wanting to "dig the past" and "keep the country on a boil".

A bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna said it is a historical fact that India was invaded several times and even ruled by a foreign power and these facts cannot be wished away selectively.

The history of any country cannot haunt the present and future generations of the nation, the bench said and questioned the motive of advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, the petitioner.

"You want to keep this as a live issue and keep the country on a boil. You want to dig the past and place it before the present generation. What has been buried, let it remain buried, we don't want those issues to come alive and disrupt the harmony among the citizens of the country," the court said.

Dismissing the PIL, the court said,"It's a historical fact that our country was invaded several times and even ruled by a foreign power. It is part of our history and we cannot wish away these facts selectively. India cannot be a prisoner of its past."

"Have we not got more pressing problems to tend to than constituting this commission? We have to move on rather than move back. What do you want to achieve by filing these kinds of petitions," the bench asked Upadhyay.

This court is supposed to protect the principles of the constitution and cannot be an instrument to create havoc and allow anyone to point fingers at any one particular community, the top court said.

"You run down a particular section of society. India is a secular country and this is a secular forum. Our constitution has adopted the word secular and we as protectors of the constitution will go by that. Let us not break this society by filling such kinds of petitions, please have the country in mind," the top court said.

Upadhyay alleged that many historical and religious places whose mention could be found in ancient scriptures like 'The Vedas' and 'Puranas' were named after the "barbaric invaders", who not only looted the country but destroyed places of religious significance to Hindus.

Justice Nagarathna said,"Hinduism is a way of life, which has assimilated everyone. Because of this way of life, we are able to live together. Let us not break it away, with such kind of petitions. Keep the harmony of the country in mind instead of religion. There is no bigotry in Hinduism". **-PTI**

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I, Shajil Ravindran s/o Morankandy Puttuserry Ravindran A604, regal urban prelude , Seegehalli main road, KR puram , B'lore 560049 have changed my name to Shajieel Ravindran for all purposes

I, Sanjay Shanbhag S/o Ramesh Shanbhag R/o 55/1 , 1st floor , 2nd Main , R K extn , K G Nagar B'lore-560019 have changed my name to Sanjay Ramesh Shanbhag.

I Harshita G Chhabria W/O, Karan N Kukreja R/o 10/1, Kukreja House 4th Floor, Kumara Krupa Road , High Grounds, Bengaluru -560001 have changed my name to Harshita Karan Kukreja

I, PRASHANTH NAYAK A, Residing at No A-304, Tower -1, Block A, Elegant Whispering Winds, Nagegowdanapalya, Bangalore 560109. Have changed My name to PRASHANTH NAYAK AMMUNJE vide affidavit dated 27/02/2023 before Notary Aravind Patil G.G, Bangalore

I Nayana N Mudhole W/o Pawan Kumar N K. R/o No.18, H-Colony, 1st Stage, Indiranagar,B'luru-560038 Have Changed My Name To Nayana Pawan Kumar Nazare Affidavit Dt.25/02/2023 Before Notary Ganesh Gowda M.V,B'luru

I Chenna Kesava Naidu Aemala S/o Aemala Subramanyam R/o Flat No 401,4th Floor,Vega Eternity,No 601,5th main, Ombré Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru 560043, Karnataka.have changed my name to Chenna Kesava Naidu Vemula For All Purposes.

I Shweta Jain W/o Deepak Chopra R/o #4, 3rd main, chamrajpet, Blore -18, has changed my name from Shweta Chopra to Shweta Jain for all future purposes

I Gunduru Ameena Bi W/O, Gunduru Mahaboob Basha R/o 237 6th Main Minhaj Nagar Bangalore 560078 have changed my name to Ameena B

WE Siddesh M.P and Kusuma both R/a No.570/4-5, 1st Stage, Shivakumaraswamy Layout, Davanagere-577005. declare that our minor Daughter's Name had changed from BRITHI MAYAKONDA to SHIVANYYA MAYAKONDA vide affidavit Dated 26/3/2019 sworn before Notary L.Veena Bangalore

I Nasreen Fathima Syed Mazheruddin C/o Mohammad Imlaqh R/o 101, 2nd Floor SV Palace, 16th Cross Street, Hoysala Nagar, Bangalore-560016 have changed my name to Nasreen Fathima

I, Musthaf S/o Ibrahim R/o 380/9. 2nd Cross , Virata Nagar , Begur Road Bommanahalli B'luru-560068 have changed my name to Musthafa Ibrahim for all purposes

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HEALTH TIP: The more restrictive a diet, the less likely it will be to have long-term benefits because people are more likely to give up

Healthy hair starts from a healthy scalp. A regular scalp massage will boost the flow of blood and vital nutrients to the hair follicles

BangaloreMirror 9
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We will keep the love alive

Relationship counsellors share their exclusive toolkit for success

When it comes to our wardrobes, we wouldn't dream of wearing the same clothes all year round. Instead we adapt what we wear each day according to our needs and the season. Yet when it comes to our relationships, we often take a one-size-fits-all approach, doing the same things out of habit throughout our lives.

And over time, this can lead us to feel disconnected from the people we love.

Relationship therapists and husband and wife team Matt and Sarah Davies are on a mission to change that.

Married for 23 years, they have a 19-year-old son and live in London.

Between them have helped more than 2,000 people - Matt as Harley Street relationship therapist, and Sarah as a couples therapist who specialises in movement and helps people be more in touch with their body.

It's safe to say what they don't know about keeping that spark alive isn't worth knowing. Together, they have developed an exclusive toolkit that aims to help couples feel intimately connected, supported and resilient to struggles in relationships.

"They're things we use at home as well as with our clients so we know they really work," says Sarah, 54.

The key, they say, is adapting to each other's changing needs.

"It's the process of checking in with each other and being open and vulnerable which creates intimacy," adds Matt, 59.

Here they share their secrets to lasting love

Look for the positives

When you first meet your partner, you tend to only see the positive things about them. But as time goes on, more and more negative observations creep into your mind. This is because the brain has a negative bias and is very adept at finding problems.

It's useful to notice the things that are positive about your relationship and magnify them in your mind. Over time, this trains the brain to start looking at things that are going well, as well as things that aren't.

Try: Each day, list three that you appreciate your partner, and ask them to do the same. When things are difficult, there may be nothing to say, so this exercise will help you check the state of your relationship, too.

See how this changes after this exercise daily for a few weeks.

Are you an octopus or a turtle?

You and your partner are in conflict, do you like to reach out and try resolve the problem (an octopus), or withdraw and reflect on it (a turtle)?

If you're an octopus, it can help to to withdraw a little and seek emotional support elsewhere when are tough, for instance by talking about the issue with family or friends. This gives your partner much-needed space, and also helps build trust that they will come back to you when they've had a think.

Meanwhile, it can help the turtle to talk to their partner rather than trying to deal with problems on their own.

Try: Think about your conflict type and keep this in mind next time you feel distant from one another.

Take a criticism holiday

Often in long-term relationships, criticising one another becomes an unconscious habit. But there is something bigger happening here.

Usually, criticism is a protest because one person feels there is a lack of emotional connection between them and their partner. Yet, the other person sees it as an attack and withdraws. They don't understand that behind the anger is a desire for connection. Taking a break from criticism can help both people come back together again.

Try: Take a criticism holiday, and agree not to criticise each other for a whole day. Remember that criticism is about wanting a deeper connection.

Look for unfinished business

We often moan to our partners about things they do or say that irritate us. If the same moans come up time and time again, there may be an unresolved issue such as niggles about a shared home, chores or childcare.

These niggles may need some further exploration. Be honest about what is bothering you both about the situation.

Try: Allow yourself just three moans a day, and use them wisely. After this, try to keep your negative emotions to yourself, or speak to someone else about them.

Stop problem solving

Couples often try to solve one another's problems. Often, one partner will come to the other for support, for instance because they've had a hard day at work. The other will try to tell them how to solve the problem, instead of listening. This can leave their partner feeling frustrated and not heard.

Try: Next time your partner comes to talk to you about an issue, try to really listen. Rather than problem solving, paraphrase what they've told you so far and then say: "Tell me more".

This helps the other person to feel heard and understood.

Refresh your relationship browser

After being in a relationship for a long time, it's easy to think you know the other person inside out.

Yet, often the person you think you know best can change - and you don't want to see it because it makes you feel uncomfortable. Instead you take an image of your partner and fix it, and believe this imaginary person is who you're in a relationship with.

Try: When you wake up each morning, imagine you're meeting your partner for the first time and this is a new relationship. There's always something to learn and be curious about.

Get into the habit of finding out who your partner is now

Each day, ask a question to help you get to know them better.

Get back in touch

Often couples come to us for therapy who never touch or feel intimate. But touch is really important for maintaining a bond. It gives a feeling of safety and security. Try: When was the last time you touched your partner? If it was a long time ago, think about ways you could get back in touch with each other.

It could be as simple as giving the other person a neck rub, or reaching out to hold hands while you watch TV together. When you are touching your partner, focus on the sensations and how nice it feels.

Give your full attention

It's rare to give someone your undivided attention, as they are usually competing with thoughts about work, or distractions from technology.

Studies show that when two people are together, the time lapse between somebody pointing out something to get their partner's attention, and their partner responding to it, is an indication of the health of their relationship. If your partner often takes several minutes to respond to you when you're speaking to them, it's a danger sign for the relationship. Try: Next time you and your partner are together, ask yourself whether you're available, responsive and engaged. Try to give them your full attention.

Acknowledge hard times

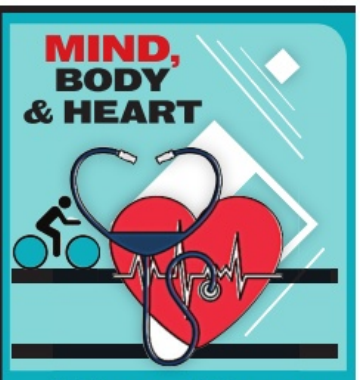
Sometimes the stress of things, such as rising costs, can have a negative impact on a couple.

It's easy to forget that outside pressure can affect your relationship, and to instead think that there's something wrong in the partnership.

If you're facing hard times at the moment, it can help to acknowledge that's going on between the two of you.

Try: Imagine you're holding hands and looking out at the world, rather than blaming each other, or assuming the difficulties come from within.

-Daily Mirror



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

A couple of weeks ago we were visiting my husband's family and his eldest sister and her kids were there too.
She's divorced and came up with the idea that we should all go on holiday together, as it would be nice for her children.
She wants to go abroad in May, but I'll be seven months pregnant by then and don't know if I'll feel up to it.
I get along OK with the rest of his family and my nieces and nephew are great, but I've never taken to her (she's snooty) and I don't want to spend a fortune on a stressful week with her.
My husband isn't very sympathetic. He says I'm pregnant, not ill, and that I might not see eye-to-eye with his sister on everything but she's been through a rough time with the divorce and could use the support.
I don't want to cause a major fuss, but I really don't want to go! What do you think?

COLEEN SAYS

First of all, having had several friends who struggled to conceive, I know it's normal to feel extra-sensitive around people with babies and children. It's understandable because you're going through a tough time. Maybe you've carried a bit of this into your relationship with your sister-in-law. But now you're pregnant, it could be an opportunity to bond with her over something you both have in common. You could even confide in her that you're nervous about being away from home when you're pregnant, as it's your first baby. It might open the door to a better relationship and she may be able to reassure you. Another option is to give your hubby your blessing to go away with his family without you – it's only for a week. You could use the time to relax at home and do nice things for yourself.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

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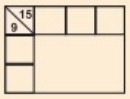
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

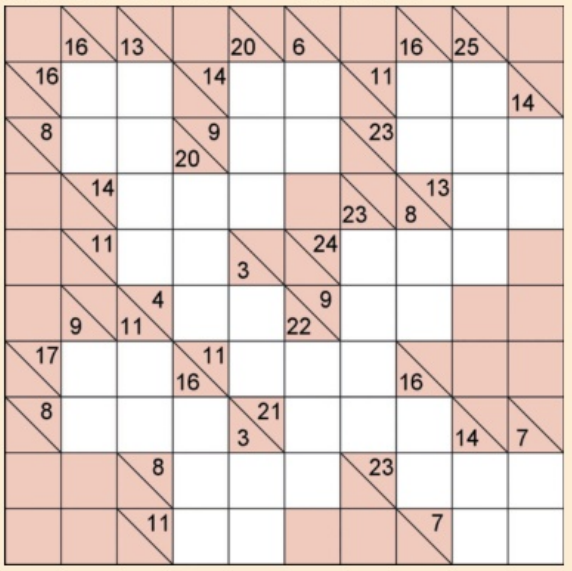
Mary's age now is greater than 9 and less than 70. The 2 digits in her age add to 8. In 27 years they will add to 17. How old is Mary now?

Kakuro

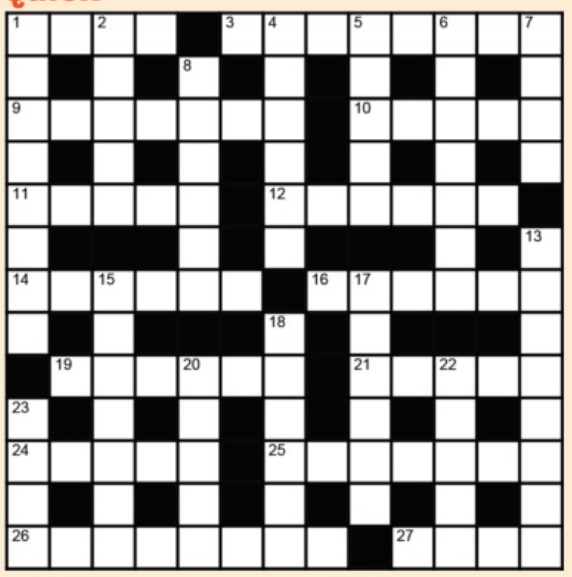
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Jason's vessel (4)
3 Mix up (8)
9 Of or relating to rain; characterised by abundant rain (7)
10 Very severe (5)
11 Kingdom (5)
12 Stadia (6)
14 Almost (6)
16 Oration (6)
19 Reddish brown horse (6)
21 Where beer guzzling classic rockers hang out off Brigade Road (5)
24 Escargot (5)
25 Artless simplicity (7)
26 Drive out evil spirits (8)
27 Weaponry (4)

DOWN

1 Candidate (8)
2 Dutch cheese (5)
4 Underground storeroom in a large old-fashioned house (6)
5 Round firm fruit (5)
6 Tourniquet (7)
7 Building wings (4)
8 Funereal (6)
13 Censures severely (8)
15 Tropical fruit (7)
17 Strong cotton fabric (6)
18 Tilts (6)
20 Survivor (5)
22 Not cloudy (5)
23 Ex-Tennis champ Arthur ___ (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS T

YIM BSWLY GWMXMGY EVL CMDMW YP VXXMGY V YISCF VL YWZM ZCYST S UCME SY VL LZXI ESYIPZY V LSCFTM HPZNY.

Linemaro

You have such a sexy voice. I wouldn't mind listening to you read the weather news

Mindchow

A harvest of peace is produced from a seed of contentment

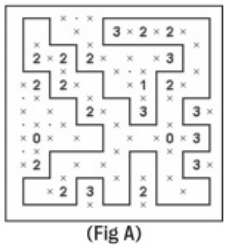
Joke of the day

What should you do if you see a space man? Park in it, man

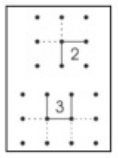
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

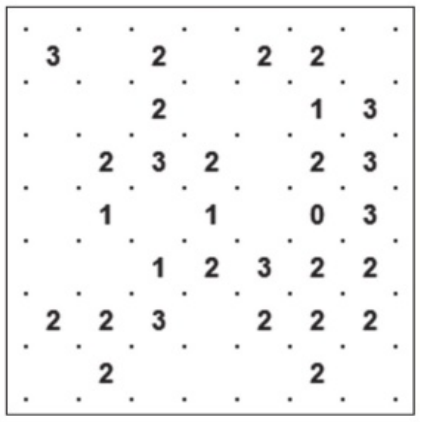


(Fig B) Not Allowed

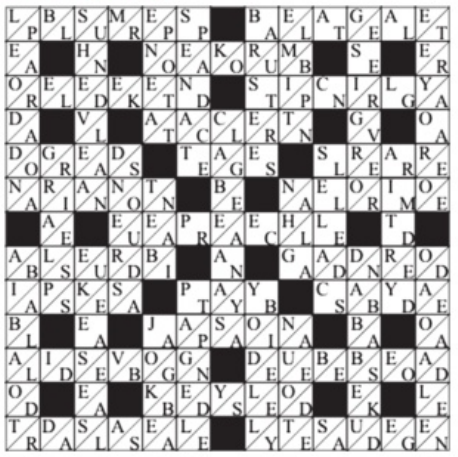
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



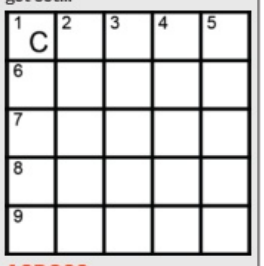
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Certs; 6 Raita; 7 Rates; 8 Hew at; 9 Slink

DOWN

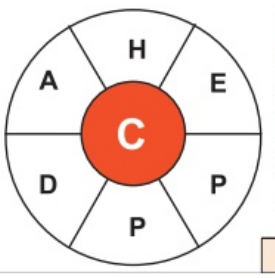
1 Raw LC; 2 Irish; 3 An tee; 4 Stake; 5 Start

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

18 6 15 9
13 11 7 17
5 19 ? 3
16 8 14 10

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		1		5	2	6		4
		9		1	3	5		8
							3	9
				8		2		5
6		7		3				
8	7							
1		2	7	4		8		
9		5	2	6		3		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

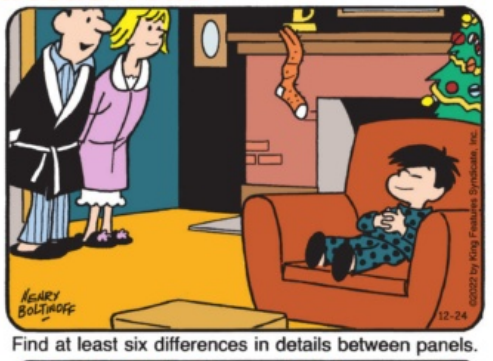
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 11: 1 5 7 8

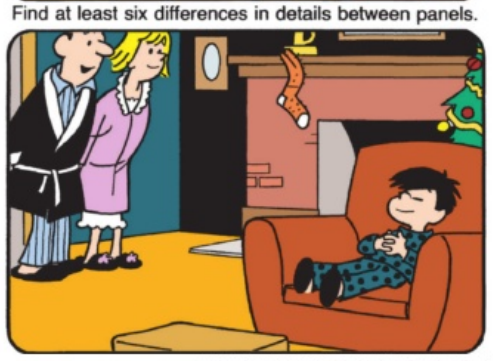
Medium = 11: 2 5 5 9

Hard = 7: 2 5 8 2

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



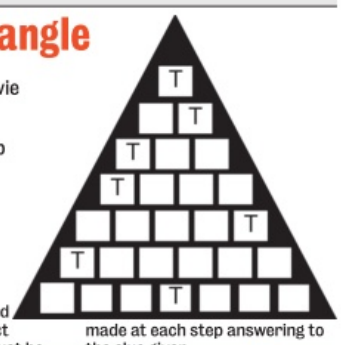
Differences: 1. Boy's legs are longer. 2. Tree is moved. 3. Stocking is shorter. 4. Woman's leg is moved. 5. Belt is shorter. 6. Robe collar is different.

Riddler

Do you know of any anagrams for TRINKET? I know of only one. What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 20th letter
2 Stephen King movie
3 Light metal
4 Prong
5 Map within a map
6 Herbal drink
7 In place of



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

YOU'VE BEEN QUIET ALL DAY, REDEYE. WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
OH, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT RETIRING...
12-12
BUT WHAT WOULD I DO TO OCCUPY MY TIME?
Yates/Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

SNIP SNIP SNIP SNIP
HOW ARE YOURS SO GOOD? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M JUST CUTTING RANDOM SHAPES!
I REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT'S ALL YOU'RE DOING.

Crankshaft

YOU STILL MAIL OUT CHRISTMAS CARDS, MS. MCKENZIE?
EVERYONE ELSE SENDS DIGITAL CARDS!
WHAT DO YOU THINK THESE ARE?
12-19
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may be busy with domestic issues. You may spend money on buying some artifacts or household stuff. You are advised to control spending on worthless stuff, otherwise it may attract negative energy in the house. You are also advised to control your harsh speaking with the people around you.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may feel comfortable after a messy situation. Your vitality may help you to implement some difficult decisions in parental business, which may grow your parental business. You may help needy people around, which may increase your social respect. Students might be clear in choosing their career options.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may feel dull; your health may not be good. You may also have anxiety and restlessness. You are advised to postpone your important investments in the business or real estate. You are advised to avoid rash driving. You should avoid long distance travelling also. You may do some meditation, it will be helpful in sound sleep.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today's blessing from elders' may make you happy; your investments may give you profits. Loses are converted into profits now. Your savings may boost your bank balance. You may plan to invest for the kid's future also. You may also enjoy some delicious food at home. Your problems related to throat, teeth, ear or nose may be resolved now.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you are blessed by elders. Your patience becomes very good, your focus towards your work may be very good. Parents' health now becomes good. You are likely to spend your time with elders. You may also meet some influential person, who may help you on the professional front. You may also enjoy your romantic moments which may increase harmony in domestic life.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may be spiritual; you may help needy people around you. You also plan to donate some amount to charity or religious places. Your good karma may help you get success in your difficult projects. You may feel some divine power around you, which may help you in unpredictable situations. You may be attracted to the occult. Students are likely to enjoy studying in depth.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may feel dull; you may be a victim of hidden fear, which may make you scared. You are not in the situation to trust anyone. It is advised to do meditation, chant some prayer, which may help you to come out from this hypothetical situation. With the help of an elder's blessings around late evening, you may come out from this messy situation.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may be busy at work; your network may be increased and with the help of a network you are likely to get a big order in terms of business and work. You are likely to start innovation in partnership. You may get some investments in your business, which will increase your business in near future. Natives related to films, glamour, household stuff, interior will do better.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may find yourself in a self analysis state, which will bring some confidence in you. Your focus towards your goals is now clear; you may get success to achieve your goal. Your creativity might improve and you will take interest in artifacts, movies, glamour and real life objects. At the end of the day, you may be satisfied with your life. Your opponents may be under control now.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may help needy people around you. It will increase your reputation among your surroundings. New ideas may come into your mind; you are likely to help other people around you. You might implement the innovation into the work, which may increase your business. Love birds may plan for outings or some adventure tour.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may be dissatisfied, you have some sort of detachment for your responsibilities, which may make you confused. You may plan hypothetically for your projects; you are advised to be practical in your work to complete it on time. You may also be taking care of your parents. If you're planning to migrate somewhere, it is advised to postpone it for some days.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today is a positive day for you; you may get success from your hard work on the professional and domestic front. You may have a good focus and you may complete your work on time, which can improve your self confidence. You may also expect some work related short trips, which may be beneficial in near future in terms of your network.

KIDZONE

Shreya M, 9 Years, Sri Vani Public School

P Hitakshi, 5 Years, Sacred Heart Nursery School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
Ages within given range for which 2 digits add to 8: 17 26 35 44 53 62
Add 27: 44 53 62 71 80 89
New sums of digits: 8 8 8 8 8 17
62 is the only age for which the 2 digits add to 8 and which added to 27 gives 89 which has 2 digits 8 & 9 that add to 17.
ANSWER: Mary is 62.

BULL'S EYE
ashe, ashed, cape, capped, CHAPPED, cheap, each, pace, paced, peach

FAST FIVE

L	I	N	K	S
W	H	E	A	T
A	S	T	E	R
R	I	A	T	A
C	R	E	S	T

STRIKE OUT

T	A	S	S	E	L	■	L	E	A	D	E	N	■	■
O	■	E	■	K	E	Y	E	D	■	E	■	E	■	■
L	I	S	B	O	N	■	D	U	B	B	E	D	■	■
L	■	A	■	J	A	S	O	N	■	B	■	A	■	■
A	S	K	S	■	P	A	Y	■	S	A	D	E	■	■
B	L	U	R	B	■	N	■	A	D	D	E	D	■	■
■	A	■	E	A	R	A	C	H	E	■	D	■	■	■
N	I	N	O	N	■	B	■	A	E	R	I	E	■	■
O	R	E	D	■	T	A	S	■	S	E	A	R	■	■
D	■	V	■	T	A	C	E	T	■	G	■	O	■	■
R	E	E	K	E	D	■	S	I	C	I	L	Y	■	■
A	N	■	O	A	K	U	M	■	E	■	E	■	■	■
P	L	U	M	P	S	■	B	E	A	G	L	E	■	■

QUICK

A	R	G	O	■	S	C	R	A	M	B	L	E	■	■
S	■	O	■	D	■	E	■	P	■	A	■	L	■	■
I	■	D	■	S	■	L	■	D	■	S	■	I	■	■
P	L	U	V	I	A	L	■	P	E	N	A	L	■	■
S	N	A	I	L	■	N	I	V	E	T	E	■	■	■
A	■	C	■	E	■	A	■	L	■	L	■	T	■	■
S	O	R	R	E	L	■	P	E	C	O	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	O	■	■	■	■	■	A	■	■
N	E	A	R	L	Y	■	S	P	E	E	C	H	■	■
A	■	■	■	A	■	R	■	■	■	G	■	C	■	■
R	E	A	L	M	■	A	R	E	N	A	S	■	■	■
P	L	U	V	I	A	L	■	P	E	N	A	L	■	■
E	X	O	R	C	I	S	E	■	A	R	M	S	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
21: pairs of numbers in lines reading across = 24.

QUOTE UNCODE
The first precept was never to accept a thing as true until I knew it as such without a single doubt.

RIDDLER knitter

SUDOKU

3	8	1	9	5	2	6	7	4
7	6	9	4	1	3	5	2	8
2	5	4	8	7	6	1	3	9
4	9	3	1	8	7	2	6	5
5	1	8	6	2	9	7	4	3
6	2	7	5	3	4	9	8	1
8	7	6	3	9	1	4	5	2
1	3	2	7	4	5	8	9	6
9	4	5	2	6	8	3	1	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, It, Tin, Tine, Inset, Tisane, Instead.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 7 + 1 − 5 = 11
Medium
5 − 5 + 9 + 2 = 11
Hard
8 + 2 − 5 + 2 = 7

LOOP

KAKURO

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Intense story of survival

Actress Ritika Singh talks about experience of acting in dark, raw kidnap drama

Ritika Singh, an actress and former mixed martial artist, was in Bengaluru on Sunday to participate in promotional activities of her latest movie InCar. Ritika, who bagged a national award for her performance in Tamil movie Irudhi Suttru, plays the lead in InCar which is about the trauma and problems of a college girl who gets kidnapped while going home from college. In a brief chat with **Y Maheswara Reddy**, she talks about the film.

How does the trailer look?

I had goosebumps when I watched the trailer. Dubbing in Kannada is amazing and a special applause to the dubbing artiste. It is a very dark, raw and difficult film to watch. I had a very tough time during the shoot of this movie. There were so many scenes where we both (the director and me) got emotional during the shooting. The crew was emotional. I can't even begin to imagine what goes through a victim's head when somebody is kidnapped like that while going back home from college. Because the whole life of the college girl changes after the kidnapping incident. It is the story of survival. I hope that people watch this movie and it gives them the power and hope to believe that you can come out of such a situation if you have presence of mind.

Does the story have any link to the Nirbhaya incident?

I remember when the Nirbhaya incident happened. Unfortunately, it happened on my birthday (December 16). The news broke out when we all were going to the college on a local train and all of us cried after hearing the news. It was a gut wrenching incident that brought a lot of changes across the nation and the whole nation came together in solidarity. The government must include self defence skills in school curriculum. Seminars should be conducted once in a month for the students on self defence skills. We had a karate academy where seminars were being held. I am willing to be part of awareness programmes.

How challenging was it?

It was very challenging. I was confident of doing this character during the first three days of the shooting. Later I realised that I was wrong. It was very tough to participate in the shooting for 35 days in a car. As the shooting of the movie progressed, my mental and emotional trauma also progressed because it is a raw movie. The movie shows how much a person breaks mentally when something of this kind happens. It took me a few months after to recover.

Was it the director or script that made you accept this film?

It is an amalgamation of both. The script was amazing and I considered the director amazing as he wrote the script by completely understanding the trauma of a woman who gets kidnapped.

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Good job

The team of Kannada movie 13 has adopted a government school in Haveri and also committed to improve the infrastructure at government schools. K Sampath Kumar, Manjunath Gowda, HS Manjunath, and C Keshavamurthy visited the school and took measures to renovate the building and construct restrooms for the students.

Speaking at the teaser launch of the movie held on Sunday, Raghavendra Rajkumar said that he wanted to lead his remaining life as Puneeth Rajkumar led his life helping others. "On an average, around 200 Kannada movies are being made every year. If the producers of each movie decide to renovate one government school, there will be no shortage of the basic infrastructure at the government schools in Karnataka," said Raghavendra Rajkumar.

He appreciated Shruthi for her sterling performance in 13.

National pride

The movie My Hero belongs to the category of content-oriented movies. Its muhurat function was held at Sri Renuka Devi Temple at Basavanagudi. Mahalakshmi sounded the clap board for the muhurat shot while veteran character artiste Dattathreya switched on the camera.

"I am basically from theater. I was trained in direction at San Francisco Film School and training in acting at Anupam Kher Acting School, Mumbai. My Hero is my debut movie as a director being made under the AV Studios banner. It will showcase all major problems in the world. The story of the movie revolves around a US official who meets a child during his visit to India," says Avinash Vijayakumar who is bankrolling the movie besides handling the megaphone.

He said India was portrayed as a poor country in many movies but My Hero would showcase India differently. "Those who watch the movie will change their opinion on India. Hollywood actor Djilali Rez-Kallah and child artiste Vedik Kaushik are the main actors in this movie. Prakash Belawadi plays a Deputy Commissioner while Dattatreya plays a priest.

Sunny side of life

Actress Sunny Leone has an enviable lehenga collection in her wardrobe and we pick some of her best looks

Watch this story come alive on your device by scanning this QR code

Bringing down the house

Alia Bhatt made a roaring return to the big stage and brought the house down with her electrifying 'Naatu Naatu' dance performance.

Dressed in her all-white Gangubai Kathiawadi avatar, the actress and new mom rocked a shimmery white saree and roses on her head as she took to the stage. Videos from the event that went viral online, saw Alia having a blast as she nailed the choreography to SS Rajamouli's Oscar-nominated 'RRR' song 'Naatu Naatu'. .

The grand performance, which was the actress' first since giving birth to baby Raha last November, left fans in awe. "This woman had a baby just 4 months ago and look at her..." tweeted a fan in disbelief.

Classic Zendaya

Queen of red carpets Zendaya is back with yet another spectacular look! Zendaya mesmerized everyone on the red carpet of the 29th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in a pink Valentino evening gown.

The custom Valentino silk duchess pink evening gown was adorned with 190 roses in duchess silk doubled with silk faille.

She paired her gown with a Bulgari diamond necklace and a bracelet. Zendaya sported a 60s-era look - side parted, soft-curled hair, lip gloss, and a pink-toned eyeshadow highlighted her look.